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AUG 29 1997

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of)
)
Request of Limited Modification of)
LATA Boundaries to Provide ELCS)
Between the Sunset)
Exchange and the Bowie)
Exchange.)

96-159

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

PETITION

I. INTRODUCTION

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT), pursuant to Section 3(25) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended,¹ and in accordance with the guidelines established in the Commission's Memorandum Opinion and Order (MO&O) released July 15, 1997 in CC Docket No. 96-159,² hereby makes application for a limited modification of LATA boundaries to provide ELCS between the Sunset exchange and the Bowie exchange.

II. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

As prescribed in paragraph 23 of the aforementioned Commission MO&O, SWBT provides the following information in support of its application:

1. Type of service: Flat-rate, non-optional Expanded Local Calling (ELC);
2. Direction of service: Two-way;

¹ The Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. *et al.*

² Memorandum Opinion and Order, Petitions for Limited Modification of LATA Boundaries to Provide Expanded Local Calling Service at Various Locations, CC Docket No. 96-159, released July 15, 1997. By way of this MO&O the Commission adopted a format for and criteria under which such petitions would be granted. The format and criteria are detailed in paragraphs 23 and 24.

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3. Exchanges involved: Sunset in the Dallas, TX LATA and Bowie in the Wichita Falls, TX LATA;
4. Name of carriers: Sunset of Sprint/United/Centel Telephone and Bowie of Southwestern Bell Telephone;
5. State commission approval(s): See Attachment A;
6. Number of access lines or customers: The Sunset exchange has 375 access lines, and the Bowie exchange has 5,060 access lines;
7. Usage data: Usage data is not available to Southwestern Bell Telephone. SWBT does not currently carry traffic across LATA boundaries;
8. Poll results: Percentage of Sunset customers returning ballots who voted in favor of ELC to Bowie: 87.80. Where SWBT is the petitioning exchange, there is no proposed rate increase. Where SWBT is not the petitioning exchange, SWBT does not have information as to any proposed rate increase.
9. Community of interest statement: The Public Utility Commission of Texas includes a Community of Interest Finding in their Order(s). See Attachment A.
10. Map: See Attachment B; and,
11. Other pertinent information: None

III. *PRIMA FACIE* SHOWING

SWBT believes that it has made a *prima facie* case supporting grant of the proposed modification because the instant ELCS petition (1) has been approved by the state commission; (2) proposes only traditional local service (i.e., flat-rate, non-optional ELCS); (3) indicates that the state commission found a sufficient community of interest to warrant such service; (4) documents this community of interest through such evidence as poll results and descriptions of the communities involved; and, (5) involves a limited number of customers or

access lines. These requirements for a *prima facie* case are detailed in the aforementioned Commission MO&O paragraph 24.

IV. CONCLUSION

Wherefore, SWBT request that the Commission approve its application for a limited modification of LATA boundaries to provide ELCS between the Sunset exchange and the Bowie exchange.

Respectfully submitted,

SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

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AUGUST 29, 1997

DOCKET NO. 12335

PETITION FOR EXPANDED LOCAL	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
CALLING SERVICE FROM THE TROUP	§	
EXCHANGE TO THE EXCHANGE OF	§	OF TEXAS
TYLER	§	

ORDER NO. 13

DOCKET NO. 12413

PETITION FOR EXPANDED LOCAL	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
CALLING SERVICE FROM THE BLESSING	§	
EXCHANGE TO THE EXCHANGE OF	§	OF TEXAS
BAY CITY	§	

ORDER NO. 17

DOCKET NO. 12922

PETITION FOR EXPANDED LOCAL	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
CALLING SERVICE FROM THE MORGAN	§	
EXCHANGE TO THE EXCHANGE OF	§	OF TEXAS
MERIDIAN	§	

ORDER NO. 13

DOCKET NO. 13226

PETITION FOR EXPANDED LOCAL	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
CALLING SERVICE FROM THE TEAGUE	§	
EXCHANGE TO THE EXCHANGE OF	§	OF TEXAS
FAIRFIELD	§	

ORDER NO. 9

DOCKET NO. 13248

PETITION FOR EXPANDED LOCAL	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
CALLING SERVICE FROM THE GRAND	§	
SALINE EXCHANGE TO THE EXCHANGE	§	STATE OF TEXAS
OF TYLER	§	

ORDER NO. 8

DOCKET NO. 12335
DOCKET NO. 12413
DOCKET NO. 12922
DOCKET NO. 13226
DOCKET NO. 13248
DOCKET NO. 13268
DOCKET NO. 13318
DOCKET NO. 13323

ORDER NO. 13
ORDER NO. 17
ORDER NO. 13
ORDER NO. 9
ORDER NO. 8
ORDER NO. 10
ORDER NO. 9
ORDER NO. 8

DOCKET NO. 13268

PETITION FOR EXPANDED LOCAL	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
CALLING SERVICE FROM THE PETTUS	§	
EXCHANGE TO THE EXCHANGES OF	§	OF TEXAS
KENEDY AND KARNES/FALLS CITY	§	

ORDER NO. 10

DOCKET NO. 13318

PETITION FOR EXPANDED LOCAL	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
CALLING SERVICE FROM THE	§	
FRANKSTON EXCHANGE TO THE	§	OF TEXAS
EXCHANGES OF TYLER	§	

ORDER NO. 9

DOCKET NO. 13323

PETITION FOR EXPANDED LOCAL	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
CALLING SERVICE FROM THE SUNSET	§	
EXCHANGE TO THE EXCHANGE OF	§	OF TEXAS
BOWIE	§	

ORDER NO. 8

**UNABATING AND DIRECTING LOCAL EXCHANGE COMPANY
TO FILE FOR LIMITED MODIFICATION**

On July 28, 1997, the Commission Staff recommended that, in light of the recent Federal Communications Commission (FCC) order addressing the procedures for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT) to request limited modifications of local access and transport area (LATA) boundaries for the provision of expanded local calling service (ELCS), that these applications be unabated. A community of interest has previously been established in these cases and a waiver

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ATTACHMENT A
SHEET 3

request was filed by SWBT with the Department of Justice under the *Modified Final Judgment*. Therefore, these applications are unabated.

Within thirty days of the effective date of this order, SWBT shall file a request for limited modification of the LATA boundary in accordance with the procedures outlined *In the Matter of Petitions for Limited Modification of LATA Boundaries to Provide Expanded Local Calling Service (ELCS) at Various Locations*, CC Docket No. 96-159, FCC 97-244, (rel. July 15, 1997) *Memorandum Opinion and Order*, §§ 23 & 24.

Additionally, within 10 days of the receipt of orders or notices from the FCC relating to these petitions, SWBT shall file such orders or notices with the Commission.



ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT
ON BEHALF OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS
ON THE 31ST DAY OF JULY, 1997

DOCKET NO. 13323

PETITION FOR EXPANDED LOCAL CALLING SERVICE FROM THE SUNSET EXCHANGE TO THE BOWIE EXCHANGE

1200 027 020 020

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF TEXAS

INTERIM ORDER

On behalf of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) finds that this docket is based on a evidentiary record and has been processed in accordance with applicable statutes and Commission rules. There were no disputed issues in this petition.

The following findings of fact and conclusions of law are ADOPTED:

Findings of Fact

1. The expanded toll-free local calling service (ELCS) petition that is the subject of this Interim Order request non-optional "to and from calling" between the Sunset and the Bowie Exchanges.
2. The processes for petitioning and balloting included notice that the service would have a fee of up to \$3.50 for residential and \$7.00 for business customers on a non-optional basis.
3. Judge Harold H. Greene established the LATA boundaries for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWB) in the Modified Final Judgment, *United States v. AT&T*, 552 F. Supp. 131 (D.D.C. 1982) and *United States v. Western Elec. Co., Inc.*, 569 F.Supp. 990 (D.D.C. 1983), and for GTE Southwest, Inc. and Contel of Texas, Inc. (collectively GTE) in the Decree, *United States v. GTE Corp.*, 1985-1 Trade Cas (CCH) §66,355 (D.D.C. 1985). (The collective orders of Judge Greene will hereinafter be referred to as MFJ.)
4. A LATA is a geographic area in which SWB and GTE can provide telecommunication services within its boundaries. In the MFJ, Judge Greene restricted the two local exchange carriers from

providing interLATA transport. In order for the companies to span the LATA boundaries established by the MFJ, they must obtain a waiver from Judge Greene.

5. Judge Greene has considered the following factors, among others, for SWB or GTE to obtain a waiver of his orders: impact on competition; whether the calling plan has the attributes of a long distance toll call; and whether a community of interest exists between the two exchanges.

6. On October 19, 1993, the Commission amended P.U.C. SUBST. R. 23.49 by adding a section pertaining to ELCS in accordance with Senate Bill 632, (Act of May 11, 1993, 73rd Leg. R.S., ch.271, 1993 Tex. Sess. Law Serv. 1276 (Vernon))(to be codified as an amendment to TEX. REV. CIV. STAT. ANN., Art. 1446c, § 93A) and § 93A of the Public Utility Regulatory Act (PURA), Tex. Rev. Civ. Stat. Ann. art. 1446c (Vernon Supp. 1994). The rule became effective on December 7, 1993.

7. The statute and the rule referred to in Finding of Fact No. 6 provide certain requirements for petitioning exchanges to meet in order to receive ELCS. One such requirement is a showing of a community of interest.

8. In recommending approval of various waivers before Judge Greene, the Department of Justice (DOJ) has relied upon an affirmative vote of the responding subscribers and whether the two exchanges share such needs as local governments; employment; shopping; and use of educational and medical services.

9. An affirmative vote of 70 percent of the subscribers responding to the ballot is necessary for an ELCS petition to proceed at the Commission. The percentage of affirmative votes from those subscribers returning ballots is a compelling showing of a community of interest. This factor is considered along with other factors, such as the sharing of local government, schools, employment, and commercial centers.

10. On April 5, 1994, the Sunset Exchange filed a petition for ELCS between it and the Bowie, Alvord, Chico, and Forestburg Exchanges. The request for service to the Bowie Exchange was severed because it involved interLATA issues.

11. The Sunset Exchange is served by Central Telephone Company of Texas (Centel), and it is in the Dallas LATA. The Bowie Exchange is served by SWB, and it is in the Wichita Falls LATA.
12. The parties to the proceeding are the petitioning Sunset Exchange, MCI Telecommunications Corporation (MCI), SWB, Centel, and General Counsel. A hearing on the merits was not held because there are no contested issues. There is no statutory deadline for this proceeding.
13. The Sunset Exchange is contiguous with the Bowie Exchange.
14. An affirmative vote of 87.8 percent of those subscribers that voted in the balloting favored expanding local calling scope of the Sunset Exchange to the Bowie Exchange.
15. Sunset is not incorporated, and it has an approximate population of 800 and has 356 access lines. Sunset has a postal office, a country store, a gas station, and a garage. These facilities have limited services. Sunset, Texas is nine miles southeast of the town of Bowie.
16. The schools for the Sunset Exchange are located in the Bowie Exchange because the school district were consolidated. Thus, children, parents, and teachers must call long distance to reach one another.
17. The Sunset Exchange relies upon the Bowie Exchange as its major source for medical care, ambulance service, care flight, Bowie Memorial Hospital, Medical-Surgical Clinic of Bowie, nursing homes, and senior citizens center.
18. The Bowie Exchange represents the commercial centers for those who live in the Sunset Exchange. The Sunset Exchange relies upon the Bowie Exchange for its attorneys, title companies, automobile dealers, hardware stores, furniture stores, specialty stores, and super markers. Bowie also provides the Golden Corral Dining, Dairy Queen, McDonald's, Sonic, Pizza Hut, Walmart, the Edward D. Jones and State Farm Insurance Company, and the First National Bank of Bowie.

19. Businesses within the Bowie Exchange employ many of the residents of the Sunset Exchange.
20. There is a community of interest between the Sunset Exchange and the Bowie Exchange. The exchanges are contiguous. In addition, the petitioners proved a strong community of interest with the Bowie Exchange in the following ways: affirmative vote of the subscribers returning ballots; common utilization as a commercial center and employment center; common reliance upon hospital and medical providers; and commonality in the school district.
21. No issues of law or fact are disputed by any party.
22. No hearing on the merits or Commission action is necessary and administrative review is warranted.

Conclusions of Law

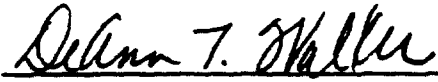
1. The Commission has jurisdiction in this proceeding pursuant to the Public Utility Regulatory Act of 1995, S.B. 319, §§ 1.101, 3.051, 3.151, 3.155, 2.201, 3.251, and 3.304, 74th Leg., R.S. 1995.
2. The standards for community of interest for ELCS in Texas are established in § 3.304(a)(2) of PURA and in P.U.C. SUBST. R. 23.49(c)(3).
3. Pursuant to P.U.C. SUBST. R. 23.49(c)(11), ELCS petitions filed prior to the adoption of P.U.C. SUBST. R. 23.49(c) must satisfy the criteria contained within the rule.
4. To meet the community of interest standard, P.U.C. SUBST. R. 23.49(c)(3)(B) and § 3.304(a)(2) of PURA require a petitioning exchange to have either a contiguous boundary with the petitioned exchange or require the exchanges covered by the petition to be within a distance of 22 miles of each other. As established in Finding of Fact No. 13, the petitioning exchange satisfies the requirement.

5. P.U.C. SUBST. R. 23.49(c)(3)(C) provides that if the exchanges are greater than 22 miles apart, but less than 50 miles, the petitioners must show a community of interest through schools, hospitals, local governments, business centers, or other relationships so that, without ELCS, a hardship on the residents of the petitioning exchange would occur.
6. An ELCS docket that has the two exchanges within 22 miles of each other or which are contiguous to each other constitutes a *per se* showing of community of interest. Judge Greene, however, considers other factors showing of community of interest in order to grant a waiver of the MFJ; thus, the Commission shall address additional findings of a community of interest between the exchanges in this type of proceeding.
7. A community of interest standard similar to P.U.C. SUBST. R. 23.49(b)(2) is not applicable to proceedings involving ELCS.
8. The standards contained within § 3.304(a)(2) of PURA and P.U.C. SUBST. R. 23.49(c)(3)(B) apply to both contested and uncontested ELCS proceedings.
9. P.U.C. SUBST. R. 23.49(c)(5)(D)(ii) and § 3.304 of PURA require an affirmative vote of at least 70 percent of those subscribers returning ballots to establish a community of interest. The statute and rule do not require an affirmative vote of at least 70 percent of all subscribers in the exchange.
10. This petition does not constitute a major rate proceeding as defined by P.U.C. PROC. R. 22.2.
11. All requirements for administrative review under P.U.C. PROC. R. 22.32(a) have been satisfied; therefore, the proposed petition may be approved by a Hearings Officer under the administrative review provisions of P.U.C. PROC. R. 22.32 as authorized by § 1.101(d) of PURA.

In accordance with the findings of fact and conclusions of law, the Commission issues the following Interim Order:

1. The petitioners in the petition filed by the Sunset Exchange for expanded local calling service to the Bowie Exchange have shown a community of interest between the exchanges.
2. Within thirty (30) days of this Interim Order, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWB) is **DIRECTED** to file a request for a waiver of the Modified Final Judgment before Judge Harold H. Greene.
3. Within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the ruling by Judge Greene, SWB is **DIRECTED** to file Judge Greene's judgment in this docket.
4. This Interim Order is effective July 2, 1995.

Respectfully submitted,

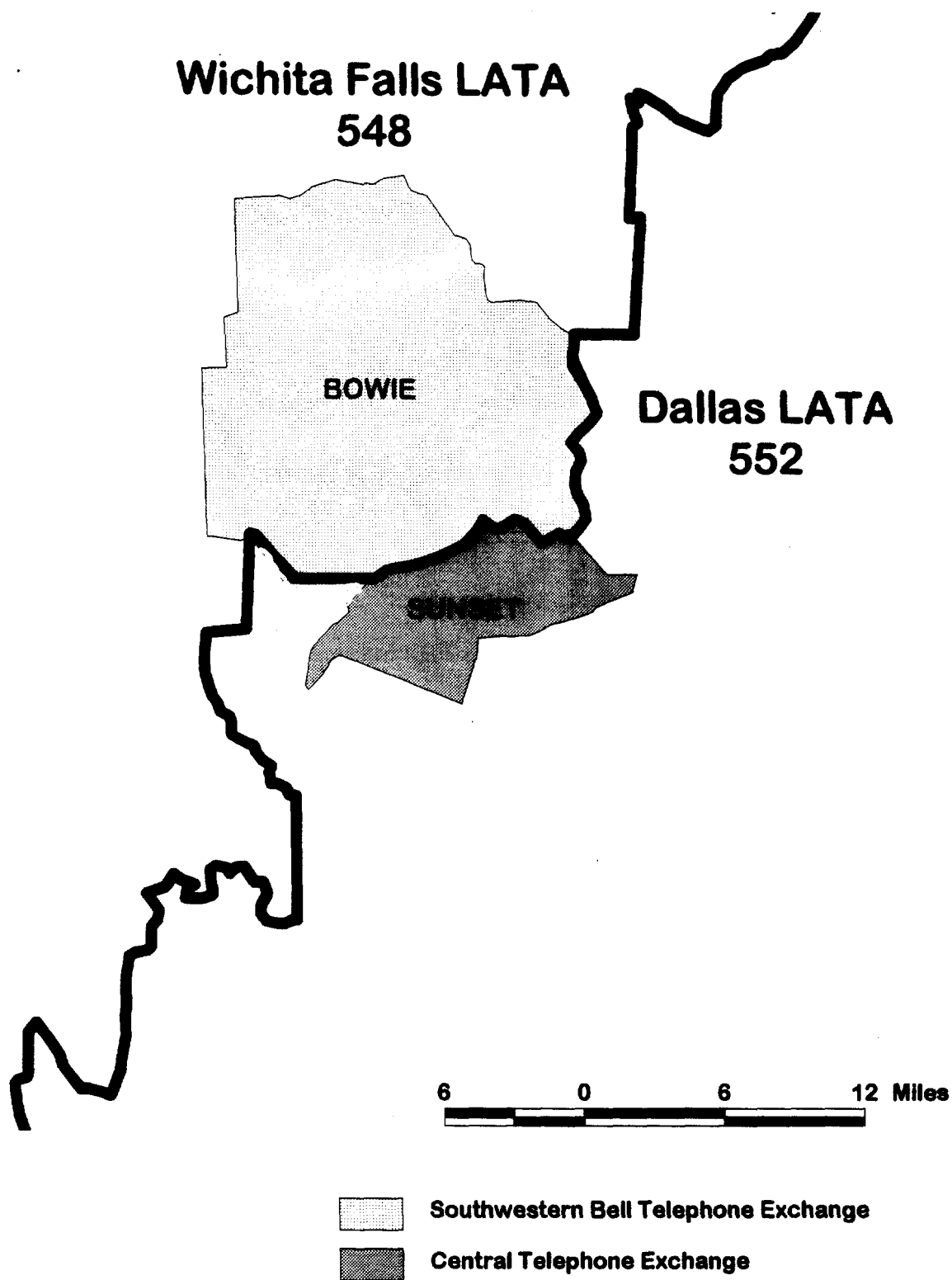


DEANN T. WALKER
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

APPROVED this ____ day of _____ 1995.

JOHN M. RENFROW
DIRECTOR OF HEARINGS

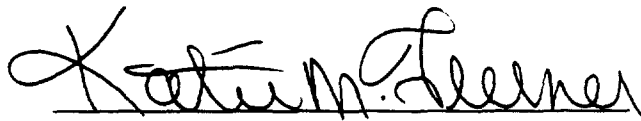
Sunset To Bowie



This document was produced by the Texas Exchange Carrier Relations organization of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company on 8/7/97, based on the best information it could obtain from other sources at that time. In addition, it is the Telephone Company's understanding that the data underlying the creation of this document may be subject to change. Southwestern Bell makes no representation as to the accuracy of the information provided to it and used to create this document.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Katie M. Turner, hereby certify that the foregoing, "PETITION OF SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY" in Docket No. 96-159 has been filed this 29th day of August, 1997 to the Parties of Record.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Katie M. Turner", is written over a horizontal line.

Katie M. Turner

August 29, 1997

Texas Public Utility Commission
1701 North Congress
Austin, Texas 78701